AWARENESS

82nd Sustainment Brigade Weapon Safety

An 82nd Sustainment Brigade Soldiers was involved in a weapon malfunction incident on 5 June 2013. The Soldier was participating in an M4/M16 zero and qualification range and borrowed another Soldiers weapon to fire. While firing the weapon the Soldier suffered a malfunction and attempted to utilize corrective action by conducting SPORTS on the weapon. The Soldier Pulled the charging handle and observed the ejection of the cartridge when a round cooked-off causing minor injuries to the Soldiers face. Fortunately this accident highlights the value of wearing appropriate protective equipment when conducting live-fire operations. Firearms malfunctions often result in serious injury and sometimes death. PPE works, and in this incident, may have prevented serious harm to a member of our Fighting Team.

WARNING!!!

If your rifle malfunctions with a live round in the chamber of a hot barrel, quickly remove the round. If you can not remove the round within 10 seconds, remove the magazine and wait 15 minutes with the rifle pointed in a safe direction. Keep your face away from the ejection port while clearing a hot chamber to avoid possible injury from a cook-off.

Perform immediate action.

NOTE: If your rifle malfunctions, remember S-P-O-R-T-S. This key word will help you remember these actions in sequence: Slap, Pull, Observe, Release, Tap, Shoot.

a. Slap upward on the magazine to make sure it is properly seated.

b. Pull the charging handle all the way back.

c. Observe the ejection of the case or cartridge. Look into the chamber and check for obstructions.

d. Release the charging handle to feed a new round in the chamber. Do not ride the charging handle.

e. Tap the forward assist.

f. Shoot. If the rifle still does not fire, inspect it to determine the cause of the stoppage or malfunction and take appropriate remedial action.

COMMAND ATTENTION REQUIRED

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